GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:916
ANSWERED ON:09.03.2005
PATIENTS TO PURCHASE MEDICINES FROM OUTSIDE
Narhire Smt. Kalpana Ramesh

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that patients in the Government hospitals located in NCT are asked to purchase medicines and other items necessary for their treatment from outside the hospitals despite availability of such items in hospitals;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to check it;

(d) whether the Government proposes to constitute any Committee to find out the facts;

(e) if so, the time by which it is likely to be constituted; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) to (f): In so far as Central Government Hospitals in Delhi, namely, Dr. R.M.L. Hospital, Safdarjung Hospital and LHMC & its associated hospitals are concerned, all the medicines as per hospital formulary, are provided to the patients free of cost.

So far as the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) is concerned, all life saving emergency medicines and surgical items as per Institute`s formulary, are issued to all patients irrespective of their social and economic status. Certain essential drugs which are stocked in the Institute in limited quantity are issued only to those patients who cannot afford to buy such medicines. Patients admitted in private wards are however required to buy the medicines (other than life saving/emergency medicines) themselves. Further, costly medicines and essential drugs (such as anti-cancer drugs, higher antibiotics) nutritional supplement and high cost surgical disposable etc. are required to be procured by the patients from their sources. For poor and indigent patient there is provision for financial help from Hospital Poor Patient`s Fund; and National Illness Assistance Fund etc.